



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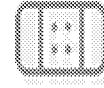
From: The Washington Post
[email@washingtonpost.com]
Sent: 9/27/2019 3:27:10 PM
To: Calvino, Maria Soledad
[Calvino.Maria@epa.gov]
Subject: The Daily 202: What if John
Ratcliffe got the job? Trump's
felled pick for DNI shows the
importance of personnel.

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POLITICIANS IN CONTROL OF

HAFT STEERING "VOTING" SHARED BY PEOPLE

**What if John Ratcliffe got the job? Trump
for DNI shows the importance of personn**

What the acting DNI told Congress about the whistleblower complaint



BY JAMES HOHMANN
with Mariana Alfaro

THE BIG IDEA: The Ukraine donnybrook shows the degree to which the president's actions depend on the individuals inside of them to function as they were intended. It was a CIA whistleblower who sounded an alarm while others bit their tongues shut. It was the inspector general who alerted Congress to his complaint when Pompeo and his loyalists were trying to keep it secret. And the public got a glimpse during a Senate committee hearing on Thursday of how differently this scandal might have unfolded if Trump's previous pick to lead the nation's intelligence community had been chosen.

The temperamental contrast was stark between Rep. John Ratcliffe, a conservative hyper-partisan congressman who wanted the job, and Joe Maguire, a former military hero who got it instead and seemed eager to show he's not just a Democrat. Democrats faulted Maguire, as the acting director of national intelligence, for dealing with the very entities who a CIA whistleblower had accused of wrongdoing. Trump's Justice Department and Trump's White House counsel's office both wanted to claim executive privilege to prevent the disclosure of his alleged conversations.

Maguire noted earnestly that he was new in the role and wanted to do the right thing. The retired admiral had been running the National Counterterrorism Center for 10 years in the Navy, including as commander of Seal Team 6. He said he had sworn to protect and defend the Constitution 11 times. "No one can take an inch of it away," Maguire explained. "It can only be given away."

Ratcliffe's questioning of Maguire – which was more of a monologue than a dialogue – offered a window into how he might have handled both the complaint and the hearing if he'd found himself in the hot seat. The congressman made a point of Trump prodding his Ukrainian counterpart to investigate former vice president Joe Biden's was "lawful conduct." He claimed without evidence that the whistleblower's complaint was "in numerous respects" and dubiously compared the complaint to the "Soviet Russia investigation." "The United States is allowed to solicit help from

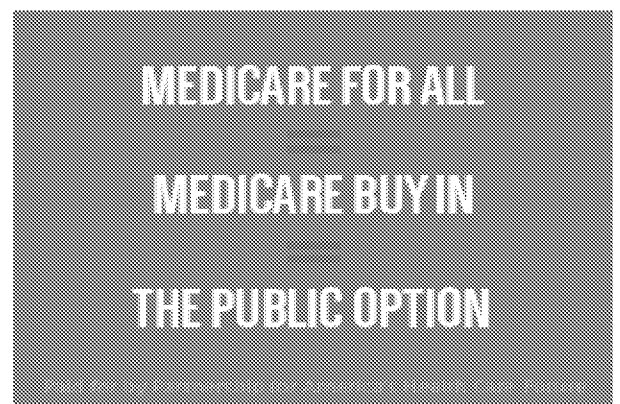
government in an ongoing criminal investigation, which is exactly what I did in that conversation,” Ratcliffe declared.

Ratcliffe’s hopes of getting formally nominated went down in flames. Senate Republicans expressed concern about his qualifications, and he had padded his résumé. The three-term congressman had im-

with his hostile questioning of former special counsel Bob Mueller. Waller pulled his support just a week after announcing his intention to nominate Maguire. When reporters asked Trump why he put someone with such limited national security experience up for such an important job without fully vetting him. "I think he would have been vetted quickly," Trump replied. "I give out a name to the press and they vet him. I don't care about money that way." Trump gave the job instead to Maguire, who had no prior experience. He immediately be thrust into the center of an epic fight between the White House and Congress.

During the hearing, Ratcliffe also falsely insisted that the legal opinion was written by the Justice Department, which claimed that intelligence community officials did not have to turn over the whistleblower complaint because it was outside the scope of the law. The opinion was written by nonpolitical lawyers. "That's an opinion from the Department of Justice ethics lawyers – not political appointees, but career officials that serve both Republicans and Democrats," Ratcliffe said during the hearing.

In fact, that opinion – released publicly on Wednesday – was authored by a political appointee Steven Engel. Engel earned a reputation as a highly partisan lawyer in the W. Bush's Justice Department, which is why Democrats fought his confirmation to the Office of Legal Counsel. He was confirmed by a vote of 51 to 47 in the Senate. As a former U.S. attorney, it seems inconceivable that Ratcliffe would not have known that the Legal Counsel is led by a political appointee.



Audio: In private UN speech, Trump calls whistleblower 'almost a spy'

-- It's also very revealing to contrast how Maguire and Trump talk about the whistleblower. The acting DNI testified that he does not know what the whistleblower's motives were, but he said he doesn't question the person's motives. He believes they "acted in good faith" and insisted that he is glad that they did what they did.

finally come out. "I think the whistleblower did the right thing," Maguire followed the law every step of the way."

As Maguire was testifying, Trump declared that the whistleblower and suggested that the legally protected conduct was akin to "treason." New York at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, the president made it also like to ferret out anyone else who provided evidence of his misconduct. "I know who's the person that gave the whistleblower ... the information to a spy," he said. "You know what we used to do in the old days when we were Right? With spies and treason, right? We used to handle them a little differently than we do now."

The Los Angeles Times published an audio recording of the closed-door hearing. The Post later obtained a video. "We're at war," Trump said in his ad-libbed remarks to the scandal. "These people are sick. They're sick. And nobody's calling them out."

-- Trump and his band of brothers have been leaning on the language of war for a week. Rep. Devin Nunes (Calif.), the ranking Republican on the Intelligence Committee, congratulated Democrats at the Maguire hearing on the "rollout of the war against the president."

Steve Bannon, Trump's former White House strategist, compared Nancy Pelosi's announcement on Tuesday night to the start of the Civil War in 1861. "Pelosi's announcement that the impeachment process at 5 p.m. was the shot at Fort Sumter," Bannon said. "If you're a freelance, you cannot go rogue. You have to be disciplined. You have to be under tight control."

-- Former DNI James Clapper likened the president's comments to the whistleblower to "witness retaliation." "What's really bad about it is the very chilling effect on any other potential whistleblowers," the Trump administration said.

What is in the declassified Trump whistleblower complaint

WHAT'S EMERGED ABOUT THE WHISTLEBLOWER:

-- "The whistleblower's identity remains obscured, the details of CIA cloaked in secrecy. But the document he delivered reveals a lot about the investigative mission he carried out in stealth as it does

abuses of power by the president,” Greg Miller reports. “[T]he CIA whistleblower report moved swiftly behind the scenes to assemble more than a half-dozen highly placed — and equally dismayed — U.S. officials. He gathered, with other painstakingly gathered material on everything from the intelligence personal lawyer Rudolph W. Giuliani in the U.S.-Ukraine relationship to American diplomats sent to Kiev and attorneys in the Office of the White House to contain or suppress the accruing damage. ...

“Six weeks later, the whistleblower has by some measures managed to do what [Mueller] accomplished in two years of investigating Trump: produce a report concerning and factually sound that it has almost single-handedly set the stage for of impeachment. ‘In the course of my official duties,’ the whistleblower wrote in the sentence of his complaint, he learned that ‘the President of the United States used the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the

-- The White House learned that a CIA officer had lodged allegations of abuse of power call even as the officer’s whistleblower complaint was moving through the system. To mean to protect him against reprisals, the New York Times reports. “The CIA shared information about potential abuse of power and a White House official told the C.I.A.’s top lawyer through an anonymous process ... The lawyer shared the concerns with White House and Justice Department officials, following the lead of the White House, C.I.A. and Justice Department officials were examining the C.I.A. officer who had lodged them anonymously grew concerned after the CIA’s general counsel Courtney Simmons Elwood] had contacted the White House. It is not clear how the officer became aware that Ms. Elwood had shared his complaint. He concluded that the C.I.A. was not taking his allegations seriously.”

“The whistle-blower was detailed to work at the White House at the CIA, according to three people familiar with his identity, and has since been reassigned to the C.I.A.,” per Julian Barnes, Michael Schmidt, Adam Goldman and Katie Rogers of the New York Times. “His complaint suggested he was an analyst by training and m

steeped in details of American foreign policy toward Europe, demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of Ukrainian politics and at least some knowledge of the CIA.

-- The AP also reports that White House and the Justice Department knew about the CIA officer's concerns about Trump "around the same time the intelligence community received the whistleblower complaint." Eric Tucker, Michael Balsamo and Zeke Miller say that information about the whistleblower was already making its way through the Trump administration:

"On Aug. 14, White House counsel John Eisenberg and a CIA officer met with the head of DOJ's national security division about the original complaint. John Demers, who leads the national security division, went to the White House the next day to review materials associated with the call. He then alerted people in the Justice Department, but it was unclear specifically who he told. In the following days, he had discussions with other Justice Department officials about how to respond to the complaint, according to the person familiar with the matter. It was during this time that the Justice Department also received a notification from the intelligence community inspector general about a whistleblower complaint."

-- Responding to reader criticism, Times executive editor Dean Baer said about their decision to publish information about the whistleblower and the fact that the White House already knew he was a CIA officer. "We decided to provide information about the whistle-blower — including the fact that he worked for the intelligence agency and that his complaint is based on an intimate knowledge and access to the White House — because we wanted to provide information to readers so they could make their own judgments about whether or not he is credible," Baer said. The Times also provided information about the whistleblower, including his credibility and his place in the government, to help readers understand one of the most important issues facing the country: whether the president of the U.S. abused power and whether the W.H. covered it up.

-- The whistleblower emphasized in the complaint that he was not worried. "The White House officials who told me this information were not worried about what had transpired in the phone call," he wrote in his complaint. "There was already a 'discussion ongoing' with White House lawyers about how to handle this because of the likelihood, in the officials' retelling, that they had witnessed the President abuse his office for personal gain."

-- If you haven't yet, take the time read the unclassified version of the complaint yourself. (It's posted here.)

Pompeo says he hasn't read whistleblower complaint yet, denies any wrongdoing



NEW DETAILS ON WHAT RUDY WAS UP TO:

-- Giuliani spent months cultivating relationships with five current prosecutors in Ukraine to achieve a particular goal: Helping Trump win the 2020 election by pursuing allegations damaging to his Democratic rival, Joe Biden. Michael Birnbaum, Rosalind S. Helderman and Josh Dawsey report: "Giuliani came under scrutiny of his conduct in a long interview Thursday, saying that more than a dozen people were being paid to the Biden family. ... During those meetings, he said, he discussed allegations about Hunter Biden and what the former New York mayor has alleged about ties between Democrats and Ukraine in the 2016 election. ... Some of the people Giuliani and his associates interacted with were banned from entering the United States. Giuliani blamed the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine for blocking the officials from coming to the United States to give him more information. ... A former Ukrainian prosecutor said that the officials were angling to provide Giuliani with compromising information to help him advance their own careers — and win U.S. backing for their position in the rough-and-tumble world of Ukrainian politics."

-- A former top Ukraine prosecutor, whose allegations were at the heart of the Trump dirt-digging effort, said Hunter Biden "did not violate anything." David L. Stern and Natalie Gryvnyak report: "'From the perspective of the law, and the legislation, he did not violate anything,' former Ukrainian prosecutor George Konrad told The Washington Post in his first interview since the disclosure of the allegations [in the complaint] ... 'Hunter Biden cannot be responsible for violations of the law.'"

of Burisma that took place two years before his arrival,' Lutsenko earlier cast doubt on Hunter Biden's actions in Ukraine, an effort that last year. Lutsenko said that Giuliani tried to arrange a meeting with him they finally managed to connect on the third try in January, 'I took a youngest son, I showed him New York and I met with Mr. Giuliani had a long conversation with him. But this was only in the forum information.'

"Lutsenko met with Giuliani again in Warsaw in mid-February, the final time 'in Europe,' he said, refusing to be more specific. Lutsenko explain the change of heart in May when he gave an interview to Bloomberg said he believed Hunter Biden had not broken any Ukrainian laws. But that if U.S. authorities were separately interested in Hunter Biden arrangements in Ukraine, Ukrainian law enforcement officials would comply."

-- One of Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky's political rivals demanding that he release the government's transcript of the call put himself in hot water across Europe for his criticisms of the French. Siobhán O'Grady and Rick Noack report: "In a Facebook post, [Ukrainian lawmaker Oleksiy Goncharenko] called it 'strange that the [Ukrainian] did not publish this transcript simultaneously with the White House.' Zelensky] praised Trump and went on to say he met both German Chancellor Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron and told them: 'They much as they should work for Ukraine.' Those comments were not well received in Europe. 'To say that I consider this to be incomprehensible would perhaps to put it,' [said] Elmar Brok, who was recently appointed special advisor to outgoing European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker."

-- Conservative columnist John Solomon, executive vice president of a newspaper, helped craft the flawed Ukraine narrative that would

Trump, his son Don Jr., and Giuliani. Paul Farhi reports: “Back in March, the Washington Post newspaper published a series of stories and interviews that seemed, at first, to be of mainly of interest to foreign-policy wonks. [Solomon] interviewed Ukrainian prosecutor, [Lutsenko], who alleged a startling conspiracy: that senior officials within his country had leaked damaging information in 2015 to help Manafort ... to help ... Clinton’s presidential campaign. ... The story quickly became a brushfire within the conservative media, in which Solomon is a prominent voice. It stayed largely out of mainstream view. On Thursday, however, Solomon’s story drew new attention — and raised new questions about its sourcing, credibility, and motivation. In [the whistleblower’s complaint], Solomon’s stories were part of a larger narrative about the alleged effort by Trump and his allies to pressure the Ukrainian government into digging up dirt on Trump’s Democratic rivals.”

-- Trump appears to be counting on confusion over the complex nature of the complaint to offer a fog of false claims and allegations to make it appear Joe Biden is doing something wrong. The Post’s Fact Checker team published a short explainer this morning to Trump’s statements — and the truth.

-- And Philip Bump created a helpful timeline of the significant details of the whistleblower’s complaint to provide more clarity on how Trump’s efforts to get dirt on Biden unfolded.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky meets Vice President Pence on Sept. 1 (AP Photo/Mike Joseph/AP)

CASCADING FALLOUT FOR THE WHITE HOUSE:

-- Vice President Pence is trying to dodge the impeachment spotlight as Ukraine moves are attracting notice. Toluse Olorunnipa and Ashley...

"Pence did not participate in [the July call] ... But Pence's name has c...

other contexts ... The whistleblower complaint ... said Pence canceled the trip to Ukraine at the direction of Trump, who was seeking to pressure the Ukrainian president politically. Three people familiar with the matter confirmed that Pence had been requested at Zelensky's inauguration and that his office had looked forward to the visit to Kiev. ... The vice president's Sept. 1 meeting with Zelensky, along with Trump's meeting with Trump, will be key targets for House Democrats ... Pence told reporters after the meeting that he had not discussed Biden with Zelensky but said that Trump's 'great concerns about issues of corruption.'"

-- **"The White House has taken extraordinary steps over the past several months to prevent details of Trump's phone calls with foreign leaders from becoming public."** Dawsey and Carol D. Leonnig report: "The number of aides allowed to listen to the 'drop' lines was slashed. The list of government officials who could receive transcripts of the call's contents was culled. Fewer copies of transcripts went to agencies. Transcripts were stamped with 'EYES ONLY DO NOT COPY.' And some officials who received transcripts had to sign for the records to create a custody record if they were to be distributed. In 2018, Defense Department officials were asked to send back transcripts of calls to the White House after Trump aides grew worried they could be disclosed to the media by senior administration officials. ...

"The complaint said the transcript was 'loaded into a separate electronic system that is otherwise used to store and handle classified information at the top secret sensitive level.' According to the whistleblower, 'one White House official said the act as an abuse of this electronic system because the call did not contain information remotely sensitive from a national security perspective.' ... The July 25 call was limited to 13 people listening in. ... Once the call concluded and copies were distributed to officials in the White House, lawyers in the White House Counsel's Office requested that the document be moved to a code-word-protected secure computer system normally reserved for transcripts that contain national security secrets. The move reflects concerns about Trump's comments, according to the complaint."

-- Lost in the controversy over Trump's phone call is Zelensky's with the president through his private business. Jonathan O'Connor's Fahrenthold report: "'Actually, last time I traveled to the United States New York near Central Park, and I stayed at the Trump Tower,' Zelensky told me in the transcript of their July 25 call] ... Zelensky's comments mark an example of an interaction Democrats and government ethics experts have warned about when Trump took office: that foreign leaders would try to influence the president by spending money at his properties and telling him about it. ... It remains unclear whether the stays were illegal. Zelensky may not have entered office legally, but he was at Trump International Tower, overlooking Central Park in New York.'

Pelosi: Whistleblower complaint details 'a coverup'

THE POLITICS OF IMPEACHMENT:

-- House Democratic leaders are eyeing a fast-paced impeachment that could lead to a vote around Thanksgiving. Mike DeBonis and report: "Multiple Democratic lawmakers and congressional aides said

timeline for the inquiry, but the 'need for speed,' as one aide put it, came under pressure from vulnerable freshmen to keep the investigation narrow and disciplined. ... Pelosi and other leaders huddled in a basement conference room one evening with more than a dozen 'front-line' members representing the rank-and-file incumbent Democrats to discuss the fledgling probe and, in the words of some of the attendees, 'get on the same page.' Inside the room, the group urged Pelosi to keep the messaging around impeachment on national security and the intelligence community, being led by the House Intelligence Committee...

"Some senior Democrats are even arguing that other committees should avoid potentially explosive hearings that could distract from the intelligence work." ... 'Very few hearings, if any,' said a senior Democratic aide, who said that most of the investigative work will largely take place in closed-door interviews. ... **moderate freshmen do not want to be seen as rushing to conclude the Ukraine probe or any other aspect of potential presidential wrongdoing.** A senior Democratic aide familiar with discussions among the party's moderate members expressed concerns that a probe seen as moving too rapidly by the public could backfire.

"One of the first credible polls to test the Democratic impeachment strategy since Pelosi's Tuesday announcement found the public almost evenly split on whether it's worth it." NewsHour-Marist Poll conducted Wednesday found Americans approving 50 percent of the House inquiry, with independents disapproving 50 percent.

-- Pelosi explained to the New Yorker that impeaching Trump for his actions isn't worth it. The difference now is the president, she contends, is the threat to democracy and the electoral system. David Remnick writes up his interview with Pelosi. He asked Pelosi if she thought Trump knows, in this instance or any other, the difference between right and wrong, she replied, **'He knows the difference between right and wrong, but I don't know that he really cares.'** I do think his categorization of what's good is what is right for him. In the campaign, he told us who he was, that he could shoot somebody on Fifth Avenue and nobody would care, that

wouldn't care. Well, he could violate our Constitution, the integrity of our office, dishonor his oath of office, as he did in this call, and think that nobody

-- **She's back: Hillary Clinton is doing a media tour to express support for impeachment, starting with CBS and continuing with additional appearances this week.** The former secretary of state called the man who beat her in 2016 a "human tornado" and an "illegitimate president." HRC's appearances point to the Democratic cause and make it look like they're trying to relitigate the 2016 campaign.

-- **Trump is writing the Republican playbook on impeachment, a scorched-earth strategy. Will it work?** Robert Costa and Philip Rucker of The Washington Post have acted impulsively and indignantly as he wages an all-out political campaign to distance himself from allegations that he abused his power to solicit foreign interference in his reelection bid. And in a testament to how completely he controls the Republican Party, many GOP officeholders and conservative media figures have followed his lead, joining his attempts either to attack the anonymous whistleblower, dispute the facts in their complaint, or malign the media for covering it. ... Trump and his allies envision a 'split screen' strategy in the coming weeks. The president is stepping up his fall schedule of campaign rallies at arenas across the country to rally his supporters outside of Washington and portray House Democrats as a bunch of radicals who are focused on impeachment instead of governing."

-- **Politico co-founder John Harris, who covered Bill Clinton's impeachment at the New York Post, remembers that impeachment proceedings used to be newsworthy with unquestionable gravity:** "The week showed it's just more fodder for the culture wars."

McCarthy says Democrats are 'unserious about the facts'

THE (FEW) REPUBLICAN DEFECTIONS:

-- Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker endorsed an impeachment joining fellow Republican governor Phil Scott of Vermont. "It's a situation and circumstance and I think the proper role and responsibility

this point is to investigate it and get to the bottom of it," Baker told reporters. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's office did not respond to request for comment. (The Associated Press)
Reis Thebault.

-- **Former Republican senator Jeff Flake said "at least 35" GOP senators will privately vote for Trump's impeachment.** The Arizonan, speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) Festival, was responding to veteran Republican political consultant Mark Malvasi's suggestion on MSNBC that 30 Republican senators would vote to impeach Trump in "a secret vote." "That's not true," Flake said in Texas. "There would be no secret vote." (The New York Times)

-- **The president's leading advisers are concerned about the "threat" to Mitt Romney (R-Utah) and are "trying to isolate him,"** Jonathan Martin of the New York Times: "Mr. Romney's public statements reflect what many in his party are saying but are almost uniformly unwilling to say: that they are faced with dangers about the president that are difficult to explain away, and are unsure whether more damaging material to come. ... To Mr. Romney, who represents a generation of beloved and is unlikely to seek another office, it is a moment where he should trump party. 'Each person should search their own heart and do what is right, which is just what I do,' he said. ... Mr. Romney said he was not in a party he believes is overwhelmingly in Mr. Trump's grip. But as Mr. Romney contemplates what he acknowledges will likely be his last period of public service, friends say he is appalled by what he sees as the president's will to power, his immorality and his party's willingness to remain quiet in the face of it." (The New York Times)

-- **"Because Trump tests boundaries of morality and legality, his effect, calling on Americans to ratify those changes,"** writes Michael Gerson, who served as chief speechwriter in George W. Bush's White House. "Trump believes that politics, stripped of pretense, is the dirty, unethical, and immoral which is properly used to destroy your enemies. Republicans who do not are providing permission for his radical redesign of public life. This is

saddest result of Trump's corruption: turning good men and women into bodyguards of a petty, cruel, lawless, would-be autocrat. Because to be transparently corrupt, congressional Republicans cannot dispute the case (as they did during [Mueller's] investigation). They may still insist. But this is more of a rally chant than an argument."

Gerson, a Trump critic, believes impeachment has become inevitable: "Impeachment may be inadvisable. It may apply a cheese grater to the nation's partisan wounds. The process may be conducted foolishly. It may feed the Republican thirst for revenge against a future Democratic president. It may turn Trump's base to salivating enthusiasm. The broad, American middle class may tune out to ESPN. All of this matters, especially if it increases the chances of Trump's reelection. But it matters like a fate, not like a choice."

2020 candidates react to Trump accusing whistleblower of treason

A RANGE OF VOICES FROM THE POST'S OPINION PAGE:

-- The whistleblower complaint strengthens the case that Trump president a quid pro quo, inveighs the Editorial Board.

-- **We sent aid to Ukraine to help it fend off Russia's ongoing occupation of Crimea. In the face of** back American support, Trump helped Putin, writes Evelyn Farkas, a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation and assistant secretary of defense during the Obama administration.

-- **Trump's impeachment need not be a long, drawn-out affair, writes** Robinson: "The nation has suffered this small, foolish, dangerous mistake. We should damn the torpedoes and move full speed ahead."

-- **The whistleblower complaint doesn't do the Democrats any favors** conservative Henry Olsen: "It offers little new information not already in the public domain. Furthermore, if it continues to be relied upon as evidence justifying impeachment, Democrats will have to make some hard choices about how to proceed."

-- **Democrats are sprinting ahead of the evidence**, adds conservative columnist George Will, another former Bush speechwriter.

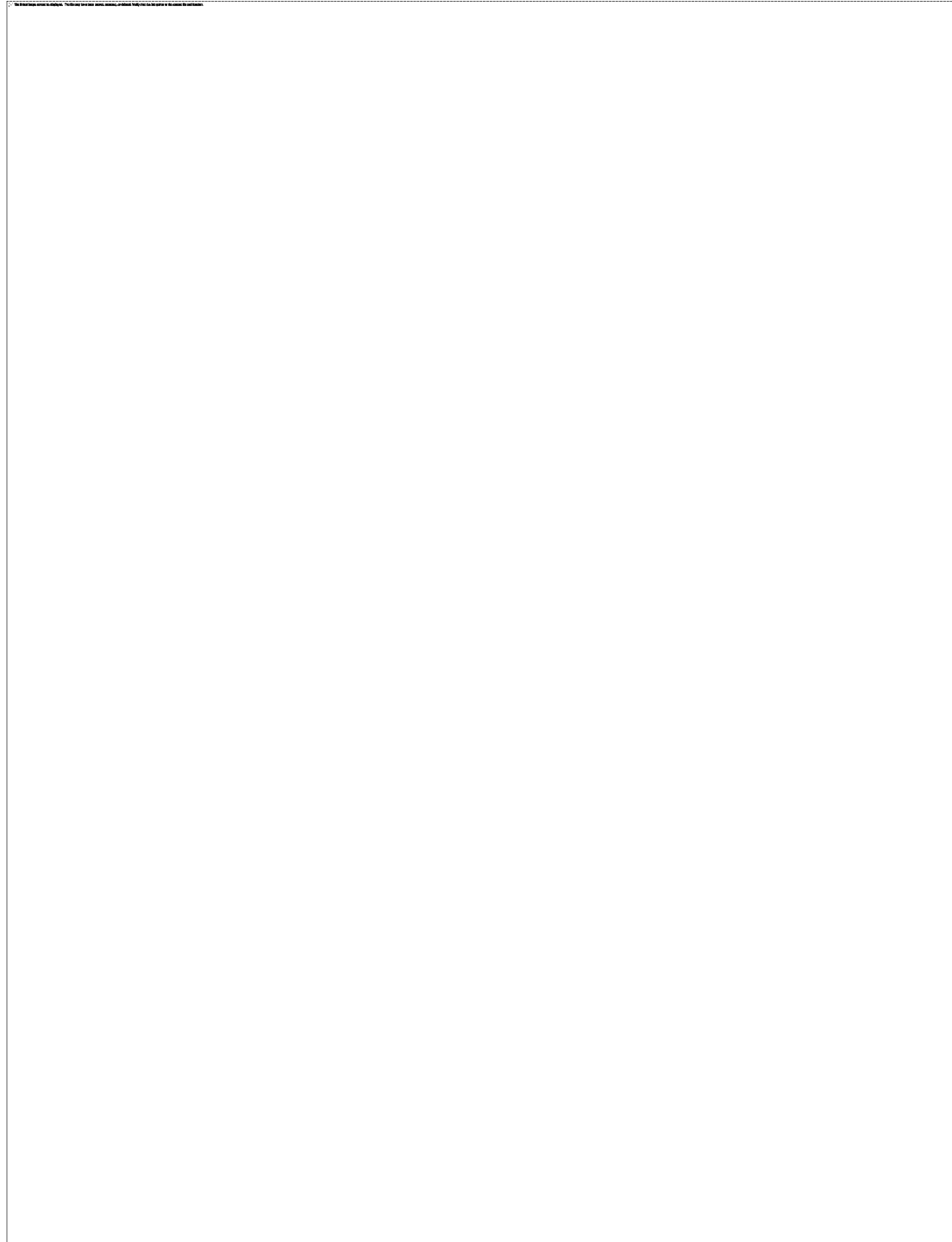
-- **The whistleblower and the vulnerable Democratic freshmen who support the** impeachment inquiry are profiles in courage, writes conservative columnist George Will. "It reminds us that there are some people in Washington who are not motivated by pure self-interest — that there are actually a few people in positions of public trust who care about the Constitution and are willing to run considerable risks to defend it."

-- **Americans have already seen enough for three articles of impeachment** Jennifer Rubin, a lawyer by training.

-- **As alarming as the allegations are against Trump, impeachment is not** required, writes Princeton University professor Keith Whittington: "The House is not necessarily be failing to do its 'constitutional duty' if it did not pass articles of impeachment."

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Refugees gather in front of the White House. (Manuel Balce Ceneta/AP)

THE DOMESTIC AGENDA:

-- **The Trump administration slashed the number of refugees who can be admitted to the U.S. next year to a historic low of 18,000.** David Nakamura, Ma Seung Min Kim report: "The new limit represents a 40 percent drop from the previous year's limit of 30,000."

marks the third consecutive year that the administration has slashed the number of refugees admitted to the United States. Under President Barack Obama, the United States admitted nearly 85,000 refugees in 2015. In the Trump administration's first year in office, the number of refugees admitted fell to 15,000. In addition, the Trump administration announced an executive order allowing local jurisdictions more leeway in rejecting refugees who are deemed a threat to national security across the country, although experts said such powers are less relevant than in the past. "The number of refugees being admitted has dwindled sharply."

A breakdown of who is being let in: "Under the plan for fiscal 2020, the administration would allocate 5,000 refugee slots to people fleeing persecution for religious or political reasons, 4,000 for Iraqis who assisted the United States and fall under the Iraq War Refugee Act of 2007, and 1,500 for nationals of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, according to senior administration officials. Another 7,500 slots would be covered by these categories, including those referred to the program by state and local officials. Last year's cap of 30,000 divided slots by region, including 11,000 reserved for the Middle East, the largest group, administration officials said. Latin America and the Caribbean received 10,000 slots last year."

-- Matthew Albence, acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, again took aim at "sanctuary cities" that refuse to help the feds catch undocumented immigrants. This time, he did so from the podium at a White House briefing room. Maria Sacchetti reports: "Albence criticized jurisdictions that refuse to help the feds catch undocumented immigrants after the agency arrested nearly 1,300 migrants during the past week's Operation Cross Check, a recurring immigration roundup of people convicted of violent crimes such as murder, manslaughter and child abuse. Nearly 200 of those arrested were taken into custody in a state prison or a local jail, he said. Instead, the feds are releasing them after posting bail or at the end of their sentences, forcing ICE agents to track them down. ... Albence was flanked by sheriffs from Texas, North Dakota and other states. Trump enjoys broad support."

-- Organizations challenging Trump's attempt to end protections for Dreamers picked Ted Olson, a former Republican solicitor general, to lead the effort.

associated with conservative causes, to argue their case before

The choice might've been more surprising had Olson not played a similar battle for same-sex marriage. (Robert Barnes)

-- An undocumented man was killed when cops went to the wrong house in Southaven, Miss. Now, the city is fighting a civil rights lawsuit because of his immigration status, he wasn't protected by the U.S. Constitution.

Antonia Noori Farzan reports: "Attorneys for the small city near Memphis are suing the city because [Ismael] Lopez had no 'legally recognized relationship' with his wife. Lopez had no rights under the Fourth Amendment, which protects against unreasonable searches and seizures, or the 14th Amendment, which guarantees equal protection to citizens. 'If he ever had Fourth Amendment or Fourteenth Amendment rights, they were lost by his own conduct and misconduct,' attorney Katherine S. Farzan said in a Sept. 4 filing. 'Ismael Lopez may have been a person on American soil, but he was not one of the 'We, the People of the United States' entitled to the civil rights protections of the Constitution.'"

-- The Senate passed a stopgap spending bill that will keep the government open through Nov. 21. Erica Werner reports: "The 82-15 vote came days before the deadline when government funding would expire if Congress didn't act. The same measure passed the same measure last week, so the Senate's passage of the short-term measure means it will now go to Trump for his signature. He is expected to sign it. The bill is aimed at giving lawmakers more time to finalize \$1.4 trillion worth of spending bills for fiscal 2020, which ends Sept. 30, 2020."

-- The Senate also confirmed Eugene Scalia, the son of the late Justice Antonin Scalia, to succeed Alex Acosta as labor secretary. Felicia Sonmez reports: "Scalia was confirmed Thursday on a 53-to-44 vote. Democrats criticized Scalia's record as a corporate lawyer has shown him to be 'anti-work' and 'pro-business.' On the Senate floor Thursday morning, Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer contended that Scalia fought to protect the interests of chief executive officers."

elite and opposed worker protections throughout his career, describing Trump as a 'disgrace.'”

-- **And the Senate overwhelmingly confirmed Trump’s pick to be the highest-ranking military officer after a bruising nomination fight over allegations of sexual assault from a former aide.** Missy Ryan and the Washington Post report: “Senators voted 75 to 22 to confirm Air Force Gen. John E. Hyten to head the U.S. Strategic Command (STRATCOM), as the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. **Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) was the lone Republican to vote against the confirmation.** Democratic senators running for president either voted against him or abstained. Michael F. Bennet of Colorado. Bennet voted in favor.”

-- **The U.S. military’s suicide rate for active-duty troops has climbed to its highest in five years, a Pentagon report reveals.** Dan Lamothe reports: “Some 325 service members died by suicide in 2018, including 325 active-duty troops, the highest number in five years. The active-duty suicide rate was about 24.8 per 100,000 service members in 2018, up from 20.1 in 2017 and 18.7 in 2013. ... Service members who die by suicide continue to be predominantly male, white and under the age of 30, said Karin Orvis, director of the Department of Defense suicide prevention office. The Army and Marine Corps, the services with the highest suicide rates, also have the greatest percentage of men.”

-- **Trump’s pick to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm Enforcement faces growing Republican concerns over his commitment to gun control.** The Washington Journal: “Failing to confirm [Chuck] Canterbury would leave the ATF without a politically appointed director at a time when the law enforcement agency is at the center of the Trump administration’s fight against violent crime and as the White House and Congress continue to negotiate gun-control measures after several months of talks in recent months. ... **Mr. Canterbury tangled in his July confirmation hearing with Republican senators who were frustrated that he wouldn’t clear up the agency’s stance on gun-control measures such as expanding background checks, limiting gun buyers and a ban on assault rifles.** He was head of the FOP when

supporting more-rigorous gun-control measures including an expansion of background checks. But he wouldn't immediately say what stance he would take in the ATF, only that he would consult with other Justice Department officials.

-- The Environmental Protection Agency formally told California it's "violating its obligations" to protect the environment. Juliet Eilperin, Brady Dawsey report: "Days after President Trump mocked Los Angeles and its smog and their 'tremendous pollution,' EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler sent a letter charging California officials with failing to meet federal health standards in communities where large homeless populations litter the streets with drug paraphernalia and human waste. ... California has long led the nation in imposing stricter limits on pollution linked to climate change. Now, the Trump administration is arguing that the state's focus on global warming has come at the expense of environmental protections."

-- Seeking to fill the void created by Trump's inaction, six U.S. governors met in Manhattan on the sidelines of the U.N. meeting to confer with foreign ministers and other foreign leaders to press for action on climate change. Morello reports: "The governors in the group, most of them Democrats, are conducting a form of shadow diplomacy. They say neither the White House nor the State Department, which typically conducts talks with foreign governments, is supporting their efforts. Their mission is to assure other countries that many of America's governors are still engaged in combating climate change, even if the United States formally withdraws from the Paris agreement next year. 'Every party looking at this should know that intelligent life in the United States taking action on climate change,' Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D), a co-founder of the Climate Alliance, said in a back-seat informal meeting with officials from the European Union. 'It's important to give the world a sense of movement, of dynamic actions being taken in America. And it's such a shame that one country has left the agreement. No one has followed Donald Trump out of

-- A federal judge denied a request by the news media to unseal
cited in the Mueller report. Spencer S. Hsu reports: "Chief U.S. Dis
Howell of the District of Columbia said she was bound by the ruling, /
that the petitioning party, the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the
qualify for other exceptions to grand jury secrecy rules."

Joe Biden and Elizabeth Warren debate in Houston. (Robyn Beck/AFP)

2020 WATCH:

-- Joe Biden's advisers are weighing the introduction of a new tax on capital gains now that the former vice president stands alone among the Democratic **front-runners in not backing a "wealth tax" on the richest Americans.** CNN reports: "The plan under consideration from Biden's advisers could tax capital gains transactions such as the sale of stocks and bonds ... Tax experts said that idea would mark just how much more aggressive Democrats are getting with taxes."

-- Some anxious Biden supporters want him to embrace a supermajority The New York Times: "Several former staffers of Mr. Biden and political donors back in the White House have held conversations in recent weeks about moving ahead with a campaign strategy. Mr. Trump's furious, and often unsubstantiated, allegations about the administration had convinced them it was imperative they act. 'For me, this week put me under a bit of stark relief,' said Larry Rasky, a former aide to Mr. Biden who is now a senior adviser and public relations executive. 'And I was already thinking the campaign was a bit naïve about the resources we'd need to fight this.'"

-- Democratic donors from Wall Street are threatening to back Trump CNN: "The 2020 campaign if Elizabeth Warren wins the nomination. From CNBC: "I don't want to get in a box because you're a Democrat and you're thinking, 'I want to help the president who is going to hurt me, so I'm going to help President Trump,'" said a senior executive at a major bank ... Some big bank executives and hedge fund managers have been wary of Warren's ascent, and they are primed to resist her. 'They will not support her. They like shutting down their industry,' an executive at one of the nation's largest banks told CNBC, also speaking on condition of anonymity."

-- **White, college-educated voters are driving Warren's rise in the** reports: "The lawmaker's support grew from 25 percent in late August to 35 percent in September with white college-educated voters, an influential group that helped elect Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election."

-- **In a fundraising email, Julián Castro warned that his campaign doesn't qualify for the November debate.** From the Texas Tribune: "Castro is asking for donations for ads to help him reach the new polling threshold: 3% in the first four states and 5% in two surveys from the first four early voting states. Castro has a fundraising requirement of 165,000 individuals but hasn't met the polling requirement yet. He is close."

-- **Sen. Kamala Harris, the former attorney general of California, says Giuliani should probably be disbarred.** "We need to know if the personal lawyer of Rudy Giuliani, was using government resources for political gain," the Democratic candidate told CNN's Anderson Cooper. "And frankly, if there were any leaks from the State Department who were facilitating Rudy Giuliani's private conversations with the president, there should be accountability and consequence for that."

-- **Former congressman Darrell Issa is launching a primary challenge against Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.),** who faces an impending trial for using his position to help facilitate several extramarital affairs. (John Wagner)

-- **Former Health and Human Services secretary Tom Price, who was in disgrace, threw his hat in the ring to take over retiring Republican Roy Blount Jr.'s Isakson's Georgia seat.** From ABC News: "According to the Georgia Republican Party, Price submitted his resume to be considered for replacing Isakson, who announced in August that he is resigning from his post in December due to various health issues. Isakson, 74, won a six-year term in 2016 and his term is due to end in 2022."

-- **A U.S. attorney whose office investigated interference in the 2016 presidential elections said he is certain Russia will try to meddle in the upcoming 2020 elections.**

race. Rachel Weiner reports: "'They're going to do the same thing,' G said Thursday afternoon at an event at George Mason University's N Institute. 'They're going to do it. In an open setting like this there's no but I think it wouldn't be irresponsible for me to say they're definitely g Terwilliger said he had heard from an administration official that 'their deepfakes,' or doctored images and videos. But he said he was also 'actual physical infrastructure' of election machines, while cautioning outside his purview."

The Saudi information ministry took reporters on a tour of Aramco's oil processing attack in Abqaiq. (Amr Nabil/AP)

THE NEW WORLD ORDER:

-- **The Pentagon authorized a modest air defense boost for Saudi attack on the kingdom's oil industry.** Missy Ryan and Dan Lamothe Secretary Mark T. Esper's decision to authorize the deployment of an

Patriot missiles and four Sentinel radar systems, accompanied by 200 Patriot missiles, shore up a key ally is a modest step that represents the administration's strategy now, to avoid additional escalation in U.S.-Iranian tensions. ... Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said the deployment would 'augment the kingdom's air defense of critical military and civilian infrastructure.' 'These steps are consistent with our commitment to regional partners, and the security and stability in the region,' he said in a statement."

-- Iraq is trying to rein in its Iran-aligned militias as tensions boil over

Louisa Loveluck and Mustafa Salim report: "Iraqi officials are worried that they could get sucked into the conflict, with concerns spiking after a May 12 missile attack on a pipeline in neighboring Saudi Arabia. **The officials were embarrassed that the attack had not come from Iran-backed rebels in Yemen, who had been blamed with responsibility for the strike, but from Iraqi territory, said lawmakers and Iraqi officials who described the fallout.** 'The prime minister was very angry,' said a lawmaker. ... Iraqi lawmakers fear that attacks launched from their southern territory could inflame regional tensions but could provoke reprisals against targets in Iraq, drawing Iraq into another ruinous conflict."

-- Syrian government forces carried out a chlorine attack in May, U.S. intelligence assessment found.

From the Journal: "The episode took place on May 11 in the northern Syrian village of Kabana as President Bashar al-Assad's forces sought to surround the town of Latakia province, a senior U.S. official said. ... At least four people were killed in a rocket strike, which was alleged at the time by the Syrian opposition to be carried out by U.S. intelligence to confirm. The Syrian government has denied the allegation."

-- The fiancée of Washington Post contributing columnist Jamal Khashoggi is

demanding that Saudi Arabia be held accountable for his murder on the 10th anniversary of his death. Hatice Cengiz spoke with NBC News on Tuesday at the U.N. General Assembly: "His fellow journalists did their best that so many things were kept under the carpet,' she said. "Saudi Arabia was put under massive pressure to

international media coverage ... But at the end of the day, all of these persuade world leaders to sanction Saudi Arabia. That is so sad."

-- **Trump's privately held company, seeking to revive its money-l**
Scotland, secured approval to build 550 luxury and holiday homes
a second golf course. Joshua Partlow reports: "The Aberdeenshire
24 to allow the Trump Organization's residential development to move
vocal opposition from many residents who fear it would crowd the roads
their windswept village. **By winning the council's approval, the Tru**
poised for one of its most ambitious foreign projects of his pres
rescue effort of sorts for Trump's first golf course in Europe, which has
year since it opened in 2012. ... In a sign of its confidence in Wedne
Trump Organization had already begun marketing the homes as
called the Trump Estate, with some homes priced at more than \$1.5

-- **British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is facing extensive backl**
a bombastic performance upon his return to Parliament. Karla A
Booth report: "The widower of a murdered lawmaker and the sister of
joined a chorus of voices on Thursday saying [Johnson] has stepped
rhetoric in the debate over Brexit. But Johnson was refusing to change
language or his strategy. ... Johnson drew particular fury over his ren
Labour lawmaker and Brexit opponent who was murdered days before
referendum by a far-right domestic terrorist who yelled 'Britain first!' b
stabbing her to death. ... Johnson [said] that the best way to honor C
be to 'get Brexit done.' ... Rachel Johnson, the prime minister's sister
politician who opposes Brexit, called her brother's remarks 'tasteless.

-- **Afghanistan's presidential election is this weekend, and voters**
fear, frustration and a sense of duty. From the AP: "The Taliban ha
issued threats against Saturday's vote. The insurgent group has sent
rallies and election offices, killing dozens and warning they will kill mo

say security preparations have been elaborate. In an interview with The New York Times, Afghanistan's Minister of Interior Masoud Andarabi outlined an election security plan that has been more than eight months in the making. ... Despite the government's claims, polling centers will be closed Saturday because Andarabi, the interior minister, said they were too difficult to secure — either because they were under Taliban control or they could threaten nearby villages.”

-- **Concerns about fraud are also running high among the public** because it could trigger political chaos. The main challenger to President Ashraf Ghani warned of dire consequences if the polls are marred by fraud. Constable and Susannah George report: “Abdullah Abdullah, Afghanistan's top executive, did not say what he would do if massive fraud takes place, but in an interview that it would be up to Ghani to ‘act responsibly.’ ‘The results will be accepted if there is clear evidence of fraud,’ Abdullah said at his residence. ‘It is not good. . . . It is not an ideal situation for the country,’ he added, referring to opposition groups and leaders, including himself, that Ghani and his government are accused of rigging the polls.”

SOCIAL MEDIA SPEED READ:

Giuliani tweeted out the screengrab of a text messages with a State Department official.

A former Hillary Clinton spokesman pointed out one of the the implica

House Intelligence Chairman Adam Schiff (D-Calif.) responded when

The president said the Ukraine scandal is a huge fundraising opportu

Texas Rep. Will Hurd, who announced his retirement last month, became the latest Republican to call for an investigation of the Ukraine allegations:

A Hawaii Democratic senator suggested that many of the Ukraine rev
have come out if Republicans still controlled both chambers of Congr

Time's new cover did not hold back:

Neither did the New Yorker:

An editor at the Bulwark, a conservative news site, explained some of
Trump's attacks against the whistleblower are so off base:

A Bloomberg News reporter made light of how many Republican senators
to have read the whistleblower's complaint:

The only Democratic presidential candidate in Congress who hasn't s
impeachment proceeding is getting attacked by her primary challenge

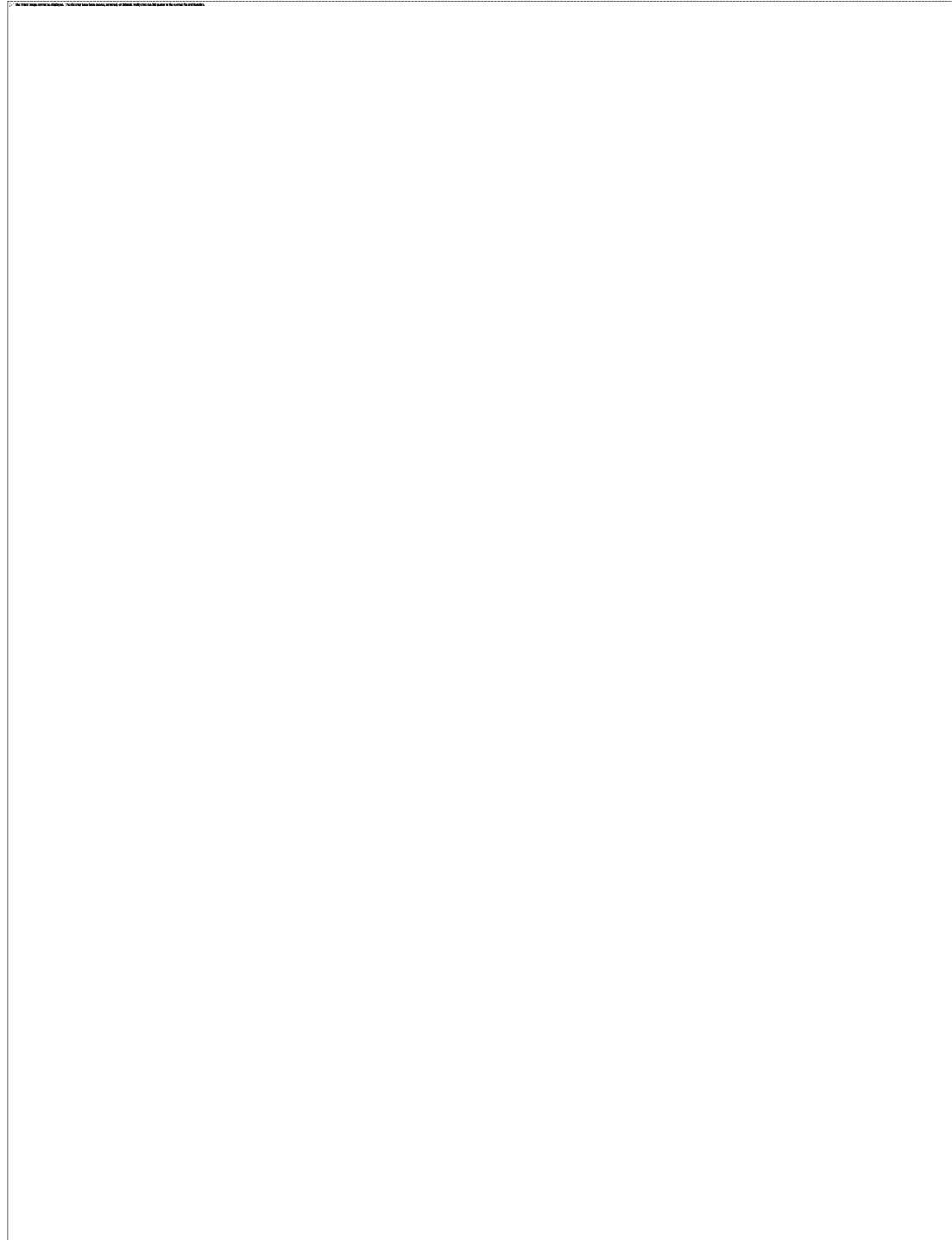
A Times TV critic compared the pacing of the Watergate scandal to th

And apropos of nothing:

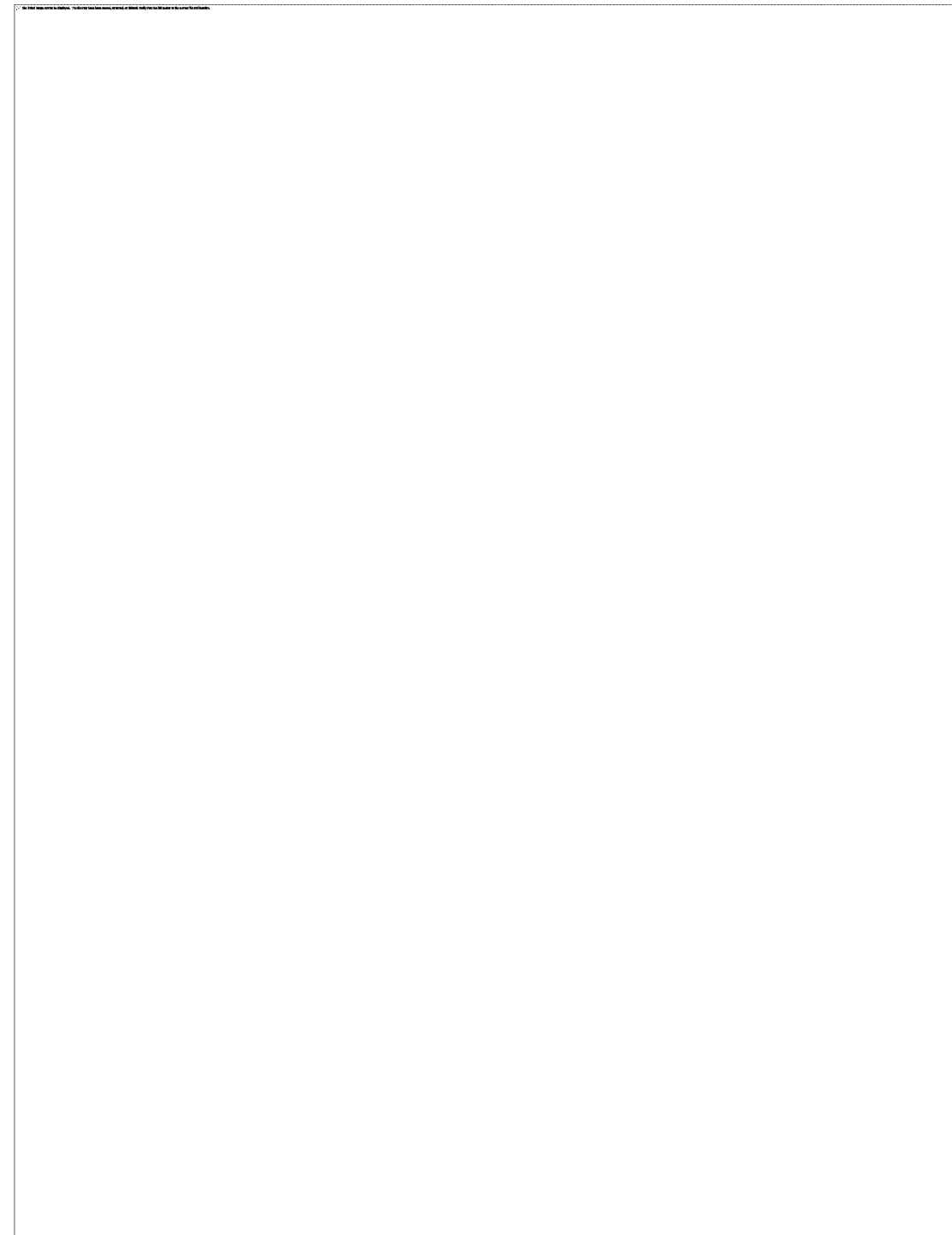
QUOTE OF THE DAY: "It is impossible that the whistleblower
I'm not. And I will be the hero! These morons—when this is c
hero," Giuliani told the Atlantic's Elaina Plott.

VIDEOS OF THE DAY:

Seth Meyers joked that Giuliani is a prime example of why you never
favor:



Trevor Noah pointed out that, since the whistleblower's complaint is classified as "FOIA b7(D)",
"people might actually read it":



Sanders told Stephen Colbert that Trump is probably the "most corrupt president in
American history:

And Justice Sonia Sotomayor played ball:

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